

OLD FORT MEIGS.

Present Appearance and Interesting Surroundings of the Historic Spot.

The Present Outlook From the Old Fort.

BY JAMES P. AVERILL.

Fort Meigs occupies a level plateau, located on the southeast bank of the Maumee, thirty feet above the water, about one-half mile above Perryburg. Standing on its breezy height, the vision extends for a range of over twenty miles up and down the valley. The location was no doubt originally selected as a site for the fort on account of its expansive outlook, as well as its strong natural de-



(Birds-eye View of Fort Meigs, from the North.)

fenses, for certainly there is no spot in the State, or in the territory for many miles west and northwest, that will favorably compare with it as a point of extensive observation and scenic beauty. From above for many miles the silvery waters are seen, sparkling and flashing, their rapids and foaming rocks bed, winding among the pretty green islands and past the rich bottom lands, covered with ripening crops.

At the foot of the fort the rapids end and the head of steam navigation commences. The river continues its winding way among the islands and bottom lands, but widens perceptibly after leaving the fort of the rapids, and is lined with groups of native forest trees, thirty orchards and vineyards and

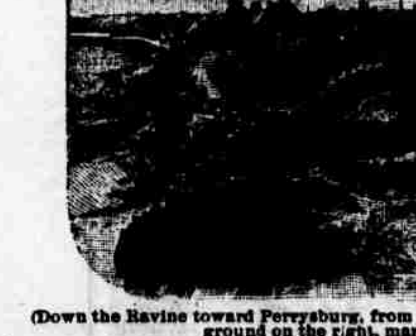


(Across the River, and down the Valley, from the West Angle.)

pretty residences. Ten miles below, over a low-lying headland, the church spire and many of the lofty houses in the growing city of Toledo come into view.

As one stands upon the old fort and drinks in this beautiful vision, a powerful sense of sympathizing pity for the brave men who named the river the "Mother of Waters" and to whom it was so fondly endeared that many brave lives were sacrificed in struggling to retain it from the grasp of the white man.

The outlook from Fort Meigs embraces many miles in extent and every foot of the soil within range of the vision has been made sacred by deeds of heroism in the battle of the river.



(Down the River toward Perryburg, from the North Angle, looking East; Dudley burial ground on the right, marked by a dead walnut tree.)

tory of the country. A broad river, leading from the fort on the right, affords a glimpse of the pretty town of Perryburg, half hidden by the luxuriant trees which line its broad avenues, and on the brow of a small arm of the river are still to be seen the ruins of a British battery, which did terrible execution during the war, and was gallantly captured, in the foreground, a few rods from the fort, on a green hill-top, is the burial spot of forty-five of Dudley's brave command, whose graves have never been disturbed. To the left of this ravine, leading toward the river, twenty rods from the fort, an elevated narrow point known as "Indian Hill," where General



(Across the river from the fort, where the main British batteries were planted.)

Harrison located "an advance picket guard," it was the site of an extensive Indian cemetery, which fact gave it its name.

One mile down the river on the opposite side, is the village of Miami—the site of Fort Miami, occupied by the British General Proctor during the siege of the river, opposite Fort Meigs, is the town of Maumee, famous in history for the capture of the Maumee, in 1814, on a bluff bank, in the lower part of town, were located the British mortar batteries during the unpleasant contest, and the only one are still distinctly visible, on the site of the Presbyterian and M. E. churches were planted the main British batteries, which did such terrible execution, and were captured by Colonel Dudley's gallant command. About 180 feet, to the east of the fort, is the site of the "Battle of Fallen Timbers," the scene of the "Battle of

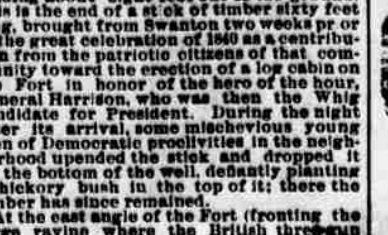
PRESENT APPEARANCE OF FORT MEIGS.

Many of the heroes who defended Fort Meigs in 1814 have visited the spot in later years, and have expressed their surprise that the original outline of the fort, which was so well preserved, this is accounted for by the fact that a large number of the soldiers who have preserved the embankments from the effects of storm and rain, and the better of the domain and the side, are citizens of the community have prevented the sacred soil from being disturbed.

The fort proper covers a space of about fourteen acres. As one stands upon the ground, the main British battery is a broad terrace, extending nearly parallel with the river, from the southeast extremity of the fort, a large elevated mound, the main embankment at the opposite point. It was originally built twenty feet wide and was built on a level, and the top of the mound, but otherwise still retains its original shape and position. The large embankment was built as a place of retreat, in the event of a storm, and shorter traverses were also erected at right angles with it from the brow of the hill and on the opposite side, extending southward, as a protection from a flank movement of the enemy. Four openings are to be seen in the main terrace, three of them about twelve feet in width, which were originally intended for the escape of the soldiers, through which the artillery passed; the one nearest the southeast corner was the largest, the others, smaller.

THE SUN DANCE.

Description of a Barbarous Indian Feast Now Suppressed by the Government.



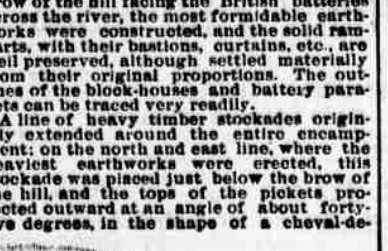
(Up the valley from the Fort; battle ground of fallen timbers in the distance.)

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THE PIANO PLAGUE.

A Berlin Electrician's Humane and Invaluable Invention.



(The Berlin electrician's humane and invaluable invention.)

It is no secret, says a continental contemporary, that a private scholar is a ruined man if next door to his residence on the same floor a maiden practices on the piano from eight o'clock to twelve in the morning, and in the afternoon again from three to seven, besides giving performances to friends in the evening. Knocking against the wall, whistling, bombarding the wall with boots, is all of no avail against piano-mania. There has, indeed, hitherto been no remedy, and we are still waiting for a piano tax. Lately, however, a Berlin electrician has helped a tortured friend by means of a piano-killer. Miss Else fled to her loved piano on a lovely spring day; her delight at touching the keys could be felt through the wall, when suddenly—oh, heaven!—the whole piano went out of the mouth and throat of the electrician. The girl trembled with fear, and the operators next door heard through the wall how she began to weep, which softened the heart of the electrician, who was, however, furiously attacked by his friend when attempting to restore it to the instrument, the enraged electrician, finding that the tortures which he had endured from the piano were not to be atoned for so easily. The case of Else's piano became widely known, chiefly because now and then the old clear music returned to the keys. The greatest musicians and pianist doctors came in flocks to examine the strange case, but no one could solve the riddle, which was finally explained as follows:

A large electro-magnet was put into the room of the tortured savant, and its pole was put close to the wall, against which stood the piano in the next house. An electric battery was connected with the electro-magnet. Whenever a strong stream of electricity was turned on its effect could easily be felt through the wall by the horizontal steel springs in the piano, and although the electricity was not very powerfully felt it was quite powerful enough to put the piano out of tune. Whenever the electric stream was stopped, which occurred as often as the victim of the piano plague went out, the mystical influence stopped and Miss Else could play.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

—The attention of a policeman of Leith was attracted one night recently by a rattle of a piano, which was heard from the back of a large warehouse into a neighboring street. Making sure that it was good wine and worth saving, the policeman aroused the warehouse manager, and it was found that a large vat had burst its hoops, permitting 1,200 gallons of wine to run out upon the floor, which was flooded to the depth of several inches. Assistance was called in, and some 200 gallons were ladled up and saved, but 1,000 gallons ran away.

—"Yes," said the tramp, "folks may talk about charitable institutions. Nowadays, if a man goes to the work-house and gets a supper and lodging, he's got to do something in the way of work to pay for it. My stars, sir, I don't call that charity."

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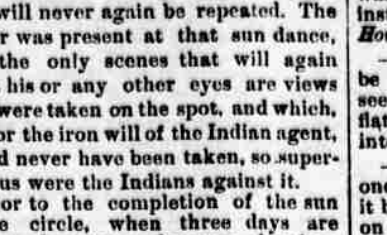
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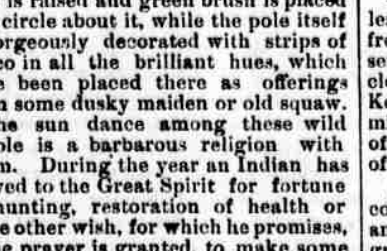
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